

Rail-wheel Optimisation Project

3155. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have taken up a project called "Rail-wheel optimisation"; and

(b) if so, the details regarding cost of the project, and by when it is going to be completed and commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Railways are participating in a joint research project of the UIC (International Union of Railways) on Rail-wheel optimisation. The project commenced in year 2000, is expected to cost approx. US \$ 5.6 million and is likely to be completed in 4-5 years time. Indian Railways has agreed to pay US \$ 1 million for the project. Other participants include Spoornet (South African Railways), the US Deptt. of Transport and the European Union.

Extension of Railways in tribal areas

3156. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals received by Government from various States, up to February, 2001 for extension of Railways;

(b) the names of States and of rail routes for which demands have been made by States especially in tribal areas;

(c) when such demand was first submitted to Government; and

(d) the action taken in respect of each demand, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.